

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 215417

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EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP

SUBJECT: VISIT OF INDONESIAN CUSTOM OFFICIAL TO U.S.

REF: JAKARTA 6493 & 11278

1. WE REGRET PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED BY MUDZRIMI RAILAN, CHIEF OF INDONESIAN CUSTOMS AT JAKARTA. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF THE LACK OF MUCH ADVANCE NOTICE WE HAD DIFFICULTY IN PROVIDING ASSISTANCE.

2. JAKARTA 6493, SENT ROUTINE, WAS RECEIVED IN EA AFTERNOON OF MAY 20 ONLY ABOUT 18 HOURS BEFORE HIS SCHEDULED ARRIVAL IN NEW YORK CITY. WE IMMEDIATELY CONTACTED RECEPTION CENTER IN NEW YORK, WHICH INFORMED US THAT ACCORDING TO HIS SCHEDULE, RAILAN WOULD BE ARRIVING AT LAGUARDIA NOT KENNEDY. SINCE THE RECEPTION CENTER IS AT KENNEDY AND THERE IS FIRM POLICY AGAINST MEETING PEOPLE AT LAGUARDIA, THEY REGRETTABLY COULD NOT MEET HIM. IT WAS NOT FEASIBLE FOR DEPT TO SEND AN OFFICER FROM WASHINGTON TO NEW YORK TO MEET A CHIEF OF CUSTOMS.

3. WE ALSO MADE CONTACT WITH U.S. CUSTOMS WHICH, DESPITE
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SHORT NOTICE, AGREED TO BE AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE IN MEET-

ING RAILAN'S INTERESTS IF WE COULD PUT THEM IN TOUCH WITH HIM IN NEW YORK. ASSISTANCE WAS ASKED OF THE INDONESIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, THE INDONESIAN CONSULATE IN NEW YORK AND AMERICAN AIRLINES IN TRYING TO CONTACT RAILAN, BUT WITHOUT SUCCESS. WE WERE SUBSEQUENTLY INFORMED BY AMERICAN AIRLINES THAT RAILAN WAS NOT ON AA 212.

4. RAILAN'S SCHEDULE HAD HIM ARRIVING IN WASHINGTON (ASSUMING HE WAS STILL ON SCHEDULE, WHICH THE INFO FROM AMERICAN AIRLINES AT THAT TIME INDICATED WAS NOT THE CASE) AT 1600 HRS ON SUNDAY, MAY 23. UNFORTUNATELY, COUNTRY DIRECTOR WAS OUT OF TOWN THAT WEEKEND AND COUNTRY OFFICER WAS ADDRESSING A LONG-SCHEDULED SEMINAR IN VIRGINIA THAT DID NOT END UNTIL EARLY SUNDAY EVENING. AGAIN, HOWEVER, INDONESIAN EMBASSY WAS ALERTED TO HIS ARRIVAL AND TOLD THAT DEPTOFFS WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO MEET WITH RAILAN OR HELP IN ANY WAY POSSIBLE ON MONDAY. EMBASSY DID NOT SUBSEQUENTLY RESPOND.

5. WE HAVE NO INFO ON THE UNFORTUNATE U.S. CUSTOMS INCIDENT IN TORONTO BUT ARE ASKING CUSTOMS TO LOOK INTO IT.

6. IT HAS BEEN OUR EXPERIENCE HERE THAT, WHILE MOST U.S. AGENCIES ARE PLEASED TO EXTEND APPROPRIATE COURTESIES TO OUR FOREIGN FRIENDS, FOR PLANNING PURPOSES THEY REQUIRE MORE THAN A FEW WORKING HOURS ADVANCE NOTICE. IT IS ALSO UNFORTUNATELY TRUE THAT WHEN VIPS ENTER THE U.S. AT AIRPORTS WHICH DO NOT HAVE RECEPTION CENTERS, WE OFTEN FIND IT DIFFICULT OR IMPOSSIBLE TO HAVE THEM MET, ESPECIALLY IN THE ABSENCE OF ADVANCE NOTICE.

7. YOU MAY WISH TO CONVEY FOREGOING TO RAILAN, ALONG WITH DEPT'S SINCERE REGRETS THAT OUR INABILITY TO REACH HIM UPON HIS ARRIVAL IN NEW YORK MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO GIVE HIM THE RECEPTION WE WOULD HAVE LIKED. WHEN WE HEAR FROM CUSTOMS REGARDING INCIDENT IN TORONTO, WE WILL RAISE QUESTION OF FORMAL APOLOGY IF ONE SEEMS APPROPRIATE. KISSINGER

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